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SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S LETTER ON SUPPORT FOR THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY DELIVERED

REF: STATE 80039

¶1. The Embassy delivered the Secretary's letter regarding support for the Palestinian Authority to Foreign Minister Frattini on August 4. Following delivery of the Secretary's letter, EconOff contacted Counselor Guglielmo Giordano and Antonello De Riu, in the Office of Italian Foreign Assistance at the MFA to discuss the possibility of increased Italian budgetary assistance for the Palestinian Authority. They informed us that they do not have any specific update on Italian plans, but will contact us as information becomes available. PolOff also spoke to Office Director for the Middle East, Carlo Formosa, who did not have any concrete details or figures to offer but noted that the MFA was seriously looking into the matter.

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